

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01 PRS-01

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O R 081100Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5701

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 14338

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
EMBASSY AS OF 1800 AUGUST 8, AND COVERS THE PERIOD SINCE THE LAST
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SITREP AUGUST 5.

SUMMARY

1. THREE PARTY ICCS NOW HOLDS ONLY "CONSULTATIONS" RATHER THAN FORMAL PLENARIES. INDODEL FIELD REPS DO INVESTIGATIONS ON REQUEST AND FORWARD REPORTS THROUGH THEIR OWN CHANNELS AS INTERNAL INDODEL DOCUMENTS. ICCS WILL NOT BE PRESENT FOR ANY RESUMED PRISONER EXCHANGES, DESPITE AVOWED PRG AND GVN ACCEPTANCE OF A THREE-PARTY ICCS PRESENCE.

2. DRV DELEGATION TO FPJMT ACCEPTED ADDITIONAL INFO ON FIVE US MIA, STATING INFO "WOULD BE USED " BY LOCAL OFFICIALS.

3. WITH PRG DELEGATION'S FIRST FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE PROMISE MADE BY GENERAL TRA FIVE MONTHS AGO IN FPJMC THAT THE PRG WOULD REQUEST THE DRV TO RETURN ARVN POWS HELD IN NORTH, GVN IS PREPARED TO RESUME SUSPENDED PRISONER EXCHANGES AT LOC NINH AND OTHER AGREED SITES NEXT WEEK.

4. IN MR 1, CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS CONTINUE AT THE HIGHER LEVEL ATTAINED OVER THE WEEKEND, WITH THE MAJORITY OF FRIENDLY CASUALTIES AGAIN THE RESULT OF PRG RESISTANCE IN QUANG NGAI. PRG PRAISED INDODEL AT FAREWELL PARTY AND SOME GVN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CORDIAL INDODEL/PRG RELATIONSHIP. HOSTILITIES IN MR 2 ALSO INTENSIFIED, LARGELY AS THE RESULT OF GVN INITIATIVES IN PLEIKU AND IN BINH DINH - WHERE RVNAF CONTINUES EXPANSION OPERATIONS EVEN IN FACE OF STILL ENEMY RESISTANCE. MR 3 ACTIVITY DROPPED SHARPLY FROM AUGUST 6 TO AUGUST 7. PRECISE LOCATION AND FUTURE MOVEMENT OF PHUOC LONG RELIEF CONVOY ARE UNASCERTAINABLE. IN MR 4, VC ACTIVITY IS STILL CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN, WHILE THE NORTHERN DELTA IS QUIETER THAN USUAL.

PART I. ICCS

WITH CANDEL WITHDRAWAL, INDODEL ASSUMED CHAIRMANSHIP AUGUST 1 AND ICCS HAS ENTERED UPON RELATIVE INACTIVITY. THE THREE REMAINING DELEGATIONS HAVE APPARENTLY AGREED (PERHAPS IN MEETINGS WHILE CANDEL STILL HERE) THAT ICCS CANNOT FUNCTION OFFICIALLY WITH ONLY THREE MEMBERS; THUS NO PLENARIES ARE BEING HELD AND THERE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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QUOTE CONSULTATIONS UNQUOTE INSTEAD. WHILE INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIONS IN THE FIELD ARE CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS UPON REQUEST, REPORTS ARE BEING FORWARDED TO SAIGON INDODEL AS INTERNAL INDODEL REPORTS. ICCS ALSO HAS BACKED AWAY FROM PRISONER EXCHANGES, EVEN IN AN OBSERVER ROLE, ALTHOUGH BOTH PRG AND RVN HAVE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT AN ICCS PRESENCE AT FUTURE EXCHANGES ON A THREE-DELEGATION BASIS.

PART II. FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT)

1. AT THE AUGUST 7 FPJMT SESSION DISCUSSION CENTERED UPON THE ISSUE OF BUILDING MEMORIALS AND CEMETERIES. RVN DELEGATION TOOK ISSUE WITH DRV/PRG CONTENTION THAT BUILDING OF CEMETERIES WAS VIETNAMESE CUSTOM, POINTING OUT LONG VIETNAMESE HISTORY OF CARING FOR INDIVIDUAL GRAVES. RVN DELEGATION PROPOSED COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD CONCENTRATE REMAINS IN AN AREA CHOSEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE REPATRIATION. DELEGATIONS AGREED TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF CEMETERIES -INCLUDING RVN PROPOSED COMPROMISE - WITH THE AIM OF RESOLVING THE ISSUE AT THE NEXT SESSION.

2. IN A PRIVATE MEETING AUGUST 6 WITH DRV DELEGATION DURING WHICH DRV WAS UNUSUALLY CORDIAL, USDEL PRESENTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FIVE US MIA PERSONNEL. ACCEPTING INFORMATION, DRV DELEGATION STATED THAT INFORMATION "WOULD BE USED" BY LOCAL OFFICIALS.

PART III. TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

WE ARE TOLD TOLD TODAY, IN AUGUST 3 CHIEFS OF DELEGATION MEETING, THE PRG FOR THE FIRST TIME FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THE RECORD AND THEREBY REAFFIRMED THE PROMISE MADE BY GENERAL TRA FIVE MONTHS AGO IN THE FPJMC THAT THE PRG WOULD REQUEST THE DRV TO RETURN ARVN POWS HELD IN THE NORTH. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE GVN IS REPORTED TO BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A RESUMPTION OF THE SUSPENDED PRISONER EXCHANGES AT LOC NINH AND OTHER PREVIOUSLY-AGREED SITES. MEANWHILE, DISCUSSION CONTINUES IN SUB-COMMISSION ON THE PICK-UP OF PRG REGIONAL PERSONNEL, WITH A PICK-UP SITE NOW CHOSEN FOR REGION III AS WELL AS FOR REGIONS IV AND VII, BUT WITH NO WORD AS YET FROM THE PRG ON DATES FOR THE ACTUAL PICKUPS. DISCUSSIONS
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ALSO CONTINUE IN SUB-COMMISSION ON OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR MOBILE INVESTIGATION TEAMS.

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USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-02 AID-10 RSR-01 /070 W

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O R 081100Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5702

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

/AMCONSUL BIEN HOA 984

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

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PART IV. MR 1

1. THIRTY-NINE CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, INCLUDING FIVE GROUND ATTACKS AND 30 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). GVN CASUALTIES: 19 KIA, 25 MIA AND 74 WIA. PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: 34 KIA AND TWO RETURNEES. MORE THAN 1900 ARTILLERY ROUNDS WERE FIRED SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. MAJOR FRIENDLY LOSSES WERE AGIN THE RESULT OF PRG RESISTANCE TO ARVN-INITIATED
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INCIDENTS IN QUANG NGAI.

2. ON AUGUST 6 THE PRG GAVE A LUNCHEON AT GIO LINH FOR COLONEL DEDY KARSANO, DEPARTING INDONESIAN DELEGATE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE. THE PRG USED THE OCCASION TO PRAISE THE INDONESIANS FOR "DOING THE MOST OF ANY DELEGATION IN REGION 1 TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENT", AND CRITICIZED THE CANADIANS BOTH FOR LEAVING AND FOR

LACK OF "OBJECTIVITY". COLONEL KARSANO CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THE INDONESAIN OBJECTIVE OF SEEKING COMPROMISE, OF CARRYING OUT THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND OF INCREASING ICCS CONTACTS WITH BOTH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES. THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES WERE INVITED TO THE LUNCHEON BUT DECLINED THE INVITATION. THESE FRIENDLY CONTACTS BETWEEN THE INDONESIANS AND THE PRG HAVE CAUSED SOME CONCERN AMONG SOME RVN OFFICIALS, BUT AS YET THEY APPEAR TO HAVE NO REAL CAUSE FOR ALARM (REF SEPTTEL).

PART V. MR 2

1. HOSTILITIES INTENSIFIED IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS. THERE WERE 38 INCIDENTS REPORTED: MOST WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE, THE REST MINE INCIDENTS AND GROUND OPERATIONS. CASUALTIES INCREASED: VC/NVA: 45 KIA, 3 CAPTURED; RVNAF: 13 KIA, 67 WIA AND 1 MIA. THE NUMBER OF TACTICAL AIR MISSIONS REMAINED HIGH: 74 ON AUGUST 6 (44 IN KONTUM, 30 IN BINH DINH) AND 65 ON AUGUST 7 (49 IN KONTUM, 16 IN BINH DINH). MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PLEIKU IS INCREASING. ON AUGUST 4 THE RVNAF LAUNCHED AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION FROM THE PLEI MRONG (LY THE LOI) RANGER CAMP WITH THE GOAL OF PUSHING NORTH IN A DIVERSIONARY ATTACK ON THE ENEMY IN POLEI KRONG/ TRUNG NGHIA SOUTHWEST OF KONTUM CTIY. TWO ENGAGEMENTS ACCOUNTED FOR 31 OF THE 45 VC/NVA KIA REPORTED REGION-WIDE. THE RANGERS REPORTEDLY SUFFERED ONLY 7 WIA. RVNAF DID LESS WELL IN NORTHERN BINH DINH, THE OTHER AREA OF OF HEAVY GROUND ACTION. ENGAGEMENTS HERE ACCOUNTED FOR 11 OF THE 13 REGIONAL RVNAF KIA, AND 35 OF THE 67 WIA. THE VC/NVA LOST 5 KIA OF THE REGIONAL TOTAL OF 45. THE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ENEMY MINES DETONATED BY FRIENDLY FORCES INDICATES THAT THE RVNAF IS CONTINUING ITS AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION OPERATIONS, EVEN AGAINST STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE. THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO HARASS THE RAILWAY. IN PHU YEN, THE TRAIN HAD JUST COMPLETED A WEEK OF INCIDENT-FREE TRAVEL ON THE

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QUI NHON-TUY HOA-NHA TRANG RUN WHEN A MINE DERAILED THE LOCOMOTIVE AND FIVE CARS ON AUGUST 7, ON THE SAME DAY IN BINH THUAN, A MINE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED ANOTHER LOCOMOTIVE.

2. COLONEL NGUYEN DUC DUNG, HERETOFORE COMMANDER OF THE 2ND ARMORED BRIGADE IN PLEIKU, WAS INSTALLED MORNING OF AUGUST 8 AS PLEIKU PROVINCE CHIEF, REPLACING SENATE CANDIDATE COLONEL TRUNG SON BA. COLONEL DUNG WAS ONE OF TWO ETHNIC VIETNAMESE OFFICERS REPORTEDLY SPONSORED BY MR 2 COMMANDER, MAJOR GENERAL TOAN, FOR THE PLEIKU POST; HE EVIDENTLY WON OUT OVER A MONTAGNARD OFFICER WHO HAD THE SUPPORT OF MINISTER NAY LUETTE.

PART VI. MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 DECLINED SHARPLY IN 48-HOUR PERIOD
ENDING 0800 AUGUST 8. THERE WERE 30 CLASHES REPORTED, BUT OF
THESE, 29 OCCURRED IN FIRST 24-HOUR PERIOD AND ONLY 11 IN THE
SECOND. THERE WERE EIGHT GROUND ATTACKS, 23 ABF AND ONE COM-
BINED FIRE/GROUND ATTACK. THERE WERE TWO MORE RAILROAD MININGS:
BOTH EAST OF XUAN LOC, LONG KHANH ON AUGUST 6. GVN LOST 16
KILLED, 21 WOUNDED (FIVE CIVILIANS) AND ONE PSDF MISSING. COM-
MUNISTS LOST SEVEN KIA, AND FIVE SUSPECTS WERE ARRESTED.

2. MR 3 G-2 LTC BINH TOL
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USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-02 AID-10 RSR-01 /070 W

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O R 081100Z AUG 73
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
CINCPAC
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COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VII. MR 4

1. MR 4 REPORTED 84 VC-INITATED INCIDENTS FOR AUGUST 6 - 7,
INCLUDING 7 GROUND ATTACKS AND 65 ABF. VC ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO

BE CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, AND FEATURED A CONCENTRATION OF FOUR ATTACKS BY FIRE AND A GROUND ATTACK IN HOA HUNG VILLAGE IN THE NORTHERNMOST CORNER OF THE PROVINCE. MR 4 REPORTED 51 TROOPS KILLED, 150 WOUNDED, 9 MISSING, AND 0 WEAPONS
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LOST. THE GVN CLAIMS THE VC LOST 75 ILLED, ONE CAPTURED, 4 CREW-SERVED WEAPONS AND 18 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED. FOR AUGUST 7, GVN SURPRISINGLY REPORTS AN EQUAL NUMBER (28) OF ITS OWN TROOPS KILLED AND VC/NVA KILLED. REPORTED VC/NVA KILLED HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HIGHER.

2. ICCS: COMMAND OF THE INDONESIAN ICCS REGION VI TEAM IN MY THO WAS FORMALLY TRANSFERRED ON AUGUST 7 TO LTC TUNGKUDUNG. PRESUMABLY DUE TO THE CHANGEOVER, AN EARLIER INDONESIAN PLAN (CAN THO 0631) TO UNILATERALLY INVESTIGATE AN INCIDENT NEAR MY THO HAS BEEN POSTPONED - PROBABLY AT LEAST UNTIL THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13.

3. THE KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE AND THE DINH TUONG VICE CONSUL BOTH REPORT DECREASED VC ACTIVITY IN THEIR NORTHERN DELTA PROVINCES IN RECENT DAYS. THE SA DEC PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS AN ATTACK BY SOME 30 VC ON A VILLAGE OFFICE IN DUC TON DISTRICT DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 6 - 7, RESULTING IN 26 GVN PERSONNEL KILLED, INCLUDING 3 NATIONAL POLICE, 5 PF, AND 7 LOCAL CIVILIAN OFFICIALS. SA DEC IS TIED WITH AN GIANG AND GO CONG AS THE MOST PACIFIED PROVINCE IN THE COUNTRY, WITH 100 PER CENT OF ITS HAMLETS IN THE HES A AND B CATEGORIES.

4. THE AN GIANG RPOVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS A SHELLING OF THE AN BINH RF ARTILLERY BASE IN THE AN GIANG SPECIAL AREA OF OPERATIONS IN KIEN TAN DISTRICT, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 5 - 6. THE BASE IS LOCATED SO AS TO INTERDICT NVA INFILTRATION FROM CAMBODIA THROUGH KIEN GIANG INTO CHUONG THIEN. IN THE PAST, SUCH HEAVY SHELLING IN THE AREA HAS PRESAGED INCREASED INFILTRATION.

5. THE BAC LIEU PROVREP REPORTS SUSPECTED VC/NVA MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD FROM CHUONG THIEN INTO THE WESTERN AREAS OF THE PROVINCE AND FROM BA XUYEN INTO THE EASTERN AREA OF BAC LIEU PROVINCE. A FORCE OF PERHAPS 400 MEN, PROBABLY NVA, APPARENTLY MOVED SOUTH FROM CHUONG THIEN INTO PHUOC LONG DISTRICT, BAC LIEU. ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 4 - 5, TEN 82MM ROUNDS HIT THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS AND AT PRECISELY THE SAME MOMENT THEO CONG DA OUTPOST TEN KILOMETERS MWEST OF THE DISTRICT TOWN WAS ATTACKED WITH MORTARS, M-79 FIRE AND AN AMBUSH. ONLY ONE PF WAS KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED, BUT THE LOSS OF 14 WEAPONS AND A RADIO
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SUGGESTS A ROUT. A HEAVY GROUND ATTACK ON CO THUM OUTPOST NEAR THE CHUONG THIEN BORDER, HOWEVER, RESULTED IN A GVN VICTORY; GVN LOST ONE KIA, ONE WIA, AND ONE MISSING, ALONG WITH THREE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES, BUT THE VC LOST 25 KILLED. TWO REINITIATED OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN AREA OF THE DISTRICT RESULTED IN AN ADDITIONAL 20 VC KILLED. TO THE EAST, IT IS REPORTED THAT THE VC PHU LOI I BATTALION, WITH ABOUT 150 MEN, CROSSED THE MY THANH RIVER FROM BA XUYEN INTO VINH CHAU DISTRICT. VC ARE ALSO REPORTED TO BE CONSTRUCTING "COMBAT HAMLETS" IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE. THESE APPEAR TO BE, HOWEVER, LITTLE MORE AT THIS TIME THAN CRUDE SHELTERS AND BUNKERS, DEVOID OF POPULATION. CONGEN CAN THO BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY THAT THE GVN WILL SIMPLY ACCEPT SUCH A VC INITIATIVE, AND REPORTS INDICATIONS THAT ARTILLERY MIGHT WELL BE USED TO DEAL WITH THE NEW SHELTERS IN BAC LIEU. REPORTS OF VC DEVELOPMENT ATTEMPTS IN BAC LIEU ARE SIMILAR TO REPORTS FROM CAHU DOC AND VINH LONG PROVINCES.

6. IN ORDER TO REMOVE THEM FROM VC INFLUENCE, THE GVN HAD PROPOSED TO RELOCATE SOME 6,412 FAMILIES (30,839 PEOPLE) FROM VC-CONTROLLED AND INSECURE AREAS IN SEVEN MR 4 PROVINCES. IN MANY CASES, RELOCATION MEANT A MOVE OF ONLY A FEW HUNDRED METERS TO A GVN-CONTROLLED ROAD, CANAL, OR OUTPOST. AMERICANS HAVE FOUND PROVINCE OFFICIALS MOST RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAM, EXCEPT IN KIEN GIANG, WHERE THERE WAS ONLY A SMALL RELOCATION, SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE LEFT THE RELOCATION AREAS FOR WANT OF SECURITY OR AGREEABLE LIVING CONDITIONS AND ENDEAVORED TO RETURN TO THEIR OLD HOMES. AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES ESTIMATE THAT, AS OF JULY 15, THE GVN HAD RELOCATED ABOUT 3,700 FAMILIES, OR 16,500 PEOPLE.
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